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SOCIOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL INFORMATION ON RUMANIA

This report gives certain sociological and political informa-  
tion on Rumania

Data is included on  
rationing, and prices, wages, the standard of living, health and  
housing, laws on economic sabotage and falsification of production  
data, partisan activities, and concentration camps.

RATIONING AND PRICES

Food rationing in Rumania is on the basis of the categories of work which  
the holder of the card performs. Ration books for clothing are given only to  
those who exceed their norms, and the value of the tickets is in direct propor-  
tion to the amount of work accomplished over the fixed minimum.

The average monthly pay of a worker is 8,000 lei. A suit of medium quality  
costs from 20,000 to 25,000 lei on the free market and a pair of good shoes 6,000  
lei.

The prices of some foods are:

Article	With Ration Card (lei per kg)	Free Market (lei per kg)
Black bread	30	--
Pork	180	250
Fats	200	500
Oil	200	400
Macaroni products (black)	150	250
Rice	--	300

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The prices of some foods on the free market were: 500 lei for a chicken, 100 to 120 lei per kilogram for black flour, 140 lei per kilogram for white flour, and 250 lei per liter for edible oil.

50X1-HUM

The prices of some rationed goods at Bucharest are: bread 17 lei per kilogram, oil 70, sugar 70, and meat 50. Rationed fats cannot be found in Bucharest. Rationed flour is distributed only at Christmas and Easter.

On the free market, all sorts of foodstuffs are available but at exorbitant prices, such as bread at 50 lei per kilogram, oil at 350 to 450, fats at 400, meat at 180, sugar at 200, and flour at 180.

Only workers who exceed their norms have the right to rationed clothing. On the free market the price of an overcoat is 22,000 lei and of a pair of shoes 6,000 lei.

Ration cards are issued only to those engaged in national work; not even the families of those not in governmental work are entitled to ration books.

50X1-HUM

The prices of some foodstuffs at Ploesti are:

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price (lei)</u>	<u>Price Without Card (lei)</u>
Bread	kg	28	120
Meat	kg	70	140
Potatoes	kg	6	30-35 and up
Second-quality oil (olive oil is not to be found)	kg	60	280-300
Butter (free market)	kg	--	400
Sugar	kg	75	200
Coffee substitutes such as barley, chick pea	150 grams	--	58
Wine	liter	108	Not on black market
Liqueurs, rum and first distillation of plum brandy mixed with mint, anise, etc. (free market)	bottle	--	400-700

At both Christmas and Easter, 250 kilograms of macaroni products were distributed. Lambs, which used to be abundant, are not available for Easter; all have been sent to the USSR. The distillation of grape residue is under strict control. The farmer is paid 40 lei, and the cooperatives resell for 160 lei a liter.

The prices of clothing without ration cards are very high: a suit is 4,000 to 6,000 lei with a card and 15,000 to 20,000 lei without a card; trousers without a card are 5,000 to 6,000 lei; shoes with a ration card are 300 to 1,000 lei and without 4,000 lei and up; shirts with a ration card are 300 lei, and without 1,500 to 2,000 lei.

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(Galati)

Since 1949, workers have been permitted to work overtime to increase their wages only under exceptional circumstances. The daily norm had been raised so high that paid overtime was out of the question, and it was rumored in Galati that the norms would be raised even more.

The workers were divided into eight categories (wages in lei per hour):

1. Unskilled labor	18
2. Semiskilled labor	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
3. Nonspecialized workers	22
4. Specialized workers	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
5. " "	30
6. " "	35
7. Foremen	40
8. " "	42

The following deductions were made from the workers' pay: various fiscal taxes, social security, mutual aid, subscription to Scanteia, and one percent to aid strikers in the "capitalist countries." Following a decree by the Minister of Labor in the second half of 1949, the deductions were no longer taken from the pay envelope but had to be paid personally by the worker at the office. If he failed to pay, his food and clothing cards were withdrawn. The boxes for contributions to support the Greek partisans had very little money in them.

Prizes used to be given to the worker or group of workers which fulfilled the production quota ahead of time, but by March 1950 these prizes were rarely given and then only for small amounts. In 1948, the monthly prizes were at least 1,000 lei, but in March 1950 they were never more than 200 or 300 lei. The higher norms have been largely responsible for the reduction of the amount of the prizes.

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The present rates of pay at the Ploesti petroleum industry are 35,000 lei per month for the general manager, 28,000 lei per month for engineers, 25,000 lei maximum and 7,000 lei minimum per month for employees, 200 to 250 lei per day for skilled laborers, and 140 to 180 lei per day for unskilled laborers. There is a 50-percent increase in pay for special extra work, either voluntary or obligatory.

#### STANDARD OF LIVING AND DISCONTENT

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The present standard of living is below the needs of the people and the former level. The source says that the workers are discontented because salaries are too low in comparison to the high price of goods. Pensions have been reduced

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to a minimum and taken from all who own land or houses. The former officers are the hardest hit because they cannot live on their meager pensions and must perform heavy and humiliating work. The masses of the people believe that a war will free them from their present state.

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A strike of railroad workers, serving to express the economic hardships of this category of workers, was broken at the very beginning by calling in a large force of policemen.

Certain "free" trades (carpenters and mechanics) have recently been forced to join cooperatives because of the tax burden.

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"The exploitation of man by man has been replaced by exploitation of man by the state."

50X1-HUM

Even the small amount of meat which should be distributed on the basis of the ration cards has not been obtainable for some time in Galati. There is a rumor that meat will be distributed in time for the Easter holidays. There is no work to be had except in governmental enterprises. The Rumanian wife who used to do embroidery for private parties, made a fair living but now she cannot find any work because the bourgeoisie no longer has the money for such luxuries. This is the general situation for most workers except some specialists in certain fields who fare a little better.

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The workers feel that they will soon resemble the Soviet workers at least in costume, since Soviet clothes have been distributed to the Rumanian workers. They see themselves, like the Soviet workers, with knives and messkits stuck in their boots lined up for "chow."

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If they are sure of not being overheard by informers, the workers and peasants strongly criticize the government. Everyone is hoping for a war to free them. To them the victory of the British Conservatives would be very desirable because they believe that Churchill would be almost certain to start a war.

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## HEALTH AND HOUSING

(Bucharest)

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Anyone who is not a member of a cooperative or labor organization cannot be treated at a hospital if he is ill, nor can he receive any help from the government. He is forced to consult a doctor who, at certain hours, may examine people not in the field of labor. The fee for such examinations is 1,000 lei. Admissions to hospitals are contingent upon the presentation of the work book. This contains the personal history statement of the person and is issued by the Communist Party.

The housing crisis is acute. Only members of the Communist Party have the right to appeal to the government for a place for their family.

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The Doctor Parhon Civilian Hospital, on Via Copo in Iasi, has been completed. The hospital is an eight-story building, 80 by 50 meters, with a five-story annex, 40 by 20 meters, used as living quarters for hospital personnel. The arrangement and equipment of the hospital is first rate, and the hospital is classed third in the Balkans. As soon as the motors for the central power plant are set up, the hospital will be ready to operate.

#### LAWS ON FALSIFICATION OF PRODUCTION DATA AND ECONOMIC SABOTAGE

The Rumanian laws provide for a prison sentence of 2 to 12 years for persons guilty of falsifying production data. Such laws were probably deemed necessary because of resistance to the competitive production which had been introduced in the country.

According to official figures, 1949 industrial production was 7 percent above the planned figures. The true picture is different because figures were falsified in order to save those who were responsible.

In 1950, production must exceed 1949 by 18 percent. The result will be a juggling of figures and not of actual production.

Any infraction deemed harmful to the collection of quotas is considered an act of sabotage. The culprit, under arrest, is brought before a people's council and judged. There is no duly qualified judge on these councils, but only workers who are trusted Communists.

Nonpayment of taxes is considered sabotage, and the defaulter is jailed.

Anti-Communist formations and militia troops battled in the mountains west of Piatra-Neamt in August 1949. Detachments of the militia called from Iasi also took part in the fight.

There are persistent rumors that the young General Dregalina has his headquarters in the Transylvanian Alps.

Detachments of militia from Iasi were sent into Transylvania to quiet the disorder caused by the partisans. It has been said that many members of the militia have gone over to the partisans.

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Some members of the militia stationed in Ramicul Valcea have deserted and gone to join partisan groups in the mountains north of the city.

Partisan groups are said to be in the mountains west of Focsani.

General Dragalina is said to be the leader of the partisan movement and is somewhere in the Transylvanian Alps.

the government sent troops into Transylvania in spring 1949 to combat the activities of antigovernment groups.

existence of a secret resistance movement in which purged army officers, deserters, and others are taking part.

Partisan elements have been reported in the mountainous regions of Taslau and Ceahlau.

#### CONCENTRATION CAMPS

there were concentration camps at Pitesti and Targu-Jiu, where political undesirables, former soldiers, and former landowners are held.

There is a concentration camp at Mamaia for political prisoners. This camp houses 1,000 prisoners in ten wooden barracks and is located 300 meters west of the coastal highway and 500 meters southwest of Mamaia. Militia members are used as guards.

The concentration camp at Poarta-Alba is located 300 meters north of the highway to Constanta and 2 kilometers north of the town. The camp houses about 2,000 Rumanian political prisoners in 18 to 20 wooden barracks. The guard force is composed of militia members.

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